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The Angler of the Seine.

The old type of angler, according to Balzac, was silent, meditative and trusty. His descendant is, on the contrary, loquacious, closely observant of everything but his fly and line and carelessly amiable. Who would have dared address the hoary and respected Pierre when in the act of landing—for he really used to land something else besides tadpoles and old boots—or when cajoling with a fish from his time honored corner beneath the Pont Royal? No one, I venture to say, but the sharp tongued gutter urchin may chaff the seedy yet imperturbable individual who has succeeded him, and, what is more, he receives a return volley of repartee garnished with puns.

Old Pierre, who was perhaps one of the best known figures 20 years back on the quays, breakfasted, dined and supped off his takes of Seine fish, which were mostly dace, carp, barbels and tench. He had a varied assortment of recipes in his possession, and many a cordon bleu has received a hint for cooking the finny tribe from this ancient fisherman. No one knew exactly where or how he lived or how he managed to obtain funds for the purchase of bait, yet he was always well supplied with the most expensive kind of gentles, greaves and paste, where his successor contents himself with roe and ill made flies.—Westminster Review.

Wall Papers.

Wall papers were little used in Europe before the eighteenth century, though they had been long before that applied to house decoration by the Chinese. Those that were first manufactured in the west were adaptations of design from Italian brocades, and at first they were used in an unobjectionable manner, just as hangings of the costlier material were employed—namely, to fill spaces between obvious structural lines—and so applied no objection could be made to their use. On the contrary, the invention brought it within the means of almost every householder to fill blank wall spaces with agreeable tracery and harmonious color.

The cornice, frieze and dado remained intact. Coigns were protected with molding or plaster work, and the inmate might feel that he was living in a built room and not in a bandbox. But gradually the wall features disappeared, paper crept over everything except window and door openings, even into the very angles of the walls, and it is nothing uncommon now on entering a saloon of considerable pretension and proportions to find the walls closely covered with paper from floor to ceiling, save a narrow skirting board to protect the plaster from the housemaid's broom and a cornice reduced to a meager molding.—Blackwood's Magazine.

Sentenced to Matrimony.

A young man and a young woman were contesting possession of a piece of property, the one claiming under an old lease, the other under an old will.

"It strikes me," said the justice, "that there is a pleasant and easy way to terminate this lawsuit. The plaintiff seems to be a respectable young man, and this is a very nice young woman. They can both get married and live upon the farm. If they go on with the law proceedings, the property will all be frittered away among the lawyers, who, I am sure, are not ungallant enough to wish the marriage not to come off."

The lady blushed, and the young man stammered that they "liked each other a little bit," so a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff on the condition of his promise to marry the defendant within two months, a stay of execution being put to the verdict till the marriage ceremony should be completed.

This is about the first couple ever sentenced to matrimony in a court of law. —Gripsack.

A Woman Superintendent.

The momentous question whether it should be a lady superintendent or woman superintendent has been decided by the trustees of the normal college. The executive committee had recommended that the bylaws of the college be amended by designating one of the professors woman superintendent.

Commissioner Lummis said he preferred lady superintendent. While there was no doubt that woman superintendent was correct, still he thought the term was not generally applied in institutions of as much dignity as the normal college. He made an amendment that lady be inserted instead of woman.

Commissioner Hubbell said woman was better form than lady. Mr. Lummis withdrew his amendment, and it is now woman superintendent.—New York Sun.

What They Know About Washington.

An Everett schoolteacher whose little charges range in age from 6 to 7 years determined to celebrate the anniversary of the natal day of the father of his country by asking a few questions. This was the interrogatory which she propounded. "What can you tell me about George Washington?" And these are a few of the individual answers:

"He was the savior of us all."

"He was the owner of the soldiers."

"He was the man who can shoot straight."

"He discovered this country."

"He was the first man in the world."

"He was the man who never bragged."

"He is the only man in the world who never told a lie."—Boston Journal.

Art, so far as it has the ability, follows nature as a pupil imitates his master, so that art must be, as it were, a descendant of God.—Dante.

The average weight of the Chinese brain is said to be heavier than the average weight of the brain of any other race.

A RETORT COURTEOUS.

I'd explained to him over and often
What a good little boy should be;
How temper and tumult to soften,
And naughty ways to flee.

He listened, mute and quiet,
With earnest eyes of blue,
Then: "I don't fink I'll try it.
I'd rayver be like you!"
—D. Lummis in Kate Field's Washington.

Friendship Between a Horse and a Dog.

A plumber at Narragansett had a horse 27 years old, which was used for carrying around his master's material when that was necessary, but spent most of its time in a small pasture. A fox terrier, also belonging to the plumber, was an inseparable companion of the old horse. When the old horse was harnessed to the cart the dog was on guard to see that nothing was stolen from the cart. In the pasture the dog was always sniffing around the horse and was never so delighted as when the horse would begin to roll in the grass, which it often did, apparently to please the dog, which would jump about in every direction and bark for pure joy.

At night when the horse was put in the barn the dog always entered with its friend and slept on the animal's body. One day the neighbors heard the most dismal howls coming from the pasture and found that the old horse had died. There was the terrier on the dead body, howling out its sorrow and misery. The dog remained with the body until it was removed for burial.—New York Tribune.

A Pocket Life Saving Apparatus.

In 1874 Lieutenant Brunel of Dieppe introduced his pocket life saving lines, of which already upward of 3,340 are being used in France, where they now rescue annually some 285 lives. Nevertheless these admirable inventions are almost unknown in our empire. Brunel's small pocket line consists of a wooden float, round which some 90 feet of stout cord is wound. The other end of the cord terminates in an efficient grapnel armed with four small hooks. The whole apparatus complete weighs only five ounces and is the most convenient of all life saving lines. Hence I urge its adoption everywhere, especially for officials and others engaged about our coasts and inland waters. These appliances could be profitably retailed for about 1s. 6d. each, and any one can make them.—London Vanity Fair.

A Magnetic Detector.

A clever contrivance has been invented for the detection of small pieces of magnetizable metal, such as needles, tacks, steel and iron chips, etc., that may have entered the human body unawares and hidden themselves in the skin or deeper tissues. The instrument was devised by Dr. J. B. Williams and consists essentially of a partially astatic combination of small magnetic needles suspended within a glass tube, the tube being covered with tinfoil to minimize electric action, except for a small space through which the needle can be observed. It is claimed that the instrument is sufficiently delicate to detect the presence of one-eighth of an inch of steel or iron wire at a distance of six inches from itself.—New York Telegram.

What You Shoot In China.

A naval officer once told the writer that pheasant shooting in China was very fair and would be really good if there were not so many obstacles about to enjoying it comfortably. He said that the people were so numerous that if you let a gun go off almost anywhere in China you were pretty sure to hit a Chinaman. They seemed easy, however, to deal with, a small present as damages sending them away in a contented state of mind, and indeed this naval authority did say that they would sometimes try to get in the shooter's way on purpose to get these damages.—Macmillan's Magazine.

Imitation In the Matter of Dress.

Imitation is one of the most marked characteristics of human nature, and in nothing is this more noticeable than in the matter of dress. To the desire to do as others do may be attributed the prevalence of almost all the fashions that have existed since the days when our primitive ancestors donned their unpretentious fig leaves.—London Tit-Bits.

Metal Ties For Roadbeds.

Numerous metal ties have been invented and many railroads have tried them, but all have proved unsatisfactory. The principal objections to them are based on their cost and their nonelasticity. A track laid on metal ties wears out rolling stock much faster than one laid on timber.—New York Tribune.

Tempting Providence.

"Mary Jane," said the Dakota farmer to his spouse, "it seems like flyin in the face of Providence to name the boy Elijah. It sounds too much like the old feller in the Bible that was carried away by a cyclone. I don't think it's a proper name at all fer this country."—Indianapolis Journal.

Government "Deadheads."

In some of the departments at Washington there are so many clerks that the useless ones stand in the way of those who are disposed to work. The working clerks are a splendid force of experienced and capable men, but the Tite Barnacles are found everywhere.—Pittsburg Post.

It is a common thing for actors and actresses on the road to send money orders to themselves at coming places on their route lists, which is often the only care for the future many of them will take.

Catullus Luctatius killed himself in a peculiarly painful manner by swallowing coals of fire and supplementing them with a piece of redhot iron.

WHY THE INTERVIEWER EXISTS.

A Few Reasons to Account for the Popularity of One Form of Journalism.

Why do persons of notoriety admit the domestic interviewer? Probably a number of reasons may be assigned. The most respectable is indolent good nature; it is easier to say "yes" than "no:" to have the tiles in your fireplace described as "Persian," and, at the same time, as the work of an Englishman, than to keep your drawing room for your acquaintances. This is the fairest plea for permitting your person and furniture to be exhibited to the suburban citizen who, honest man, probably never heard of you and cares very little about you.

Again the patient may really like being talked about in public—may enjoy the idea of permitting all the world to know, as Mr. Allen says, "curious little details which might be left to your conscience, your cook and the commissioners of inland revenue." It is an odd taste, but it is possible that "the animals enjoy it." The interviewed may pretend to complain, but may really rejoice. The public does not mind it, the patient is pleased, the interviewer earns his fee in the way he has been inspired to choose.

All this may be admitted, but the plea of necessity cannot be admitted. Again, probably many of the patients think an "interview" a good advertisement. They are brought before the public notice; therefore the public will read their books or buy their pictures. This is a sad mistake. The public which reads interviews knows nothing about the interviewed author and his works, cares nothing about them nor about anything of the sort. "Here is gossip about somebody whose name I have seen in the papers," says the reader, so he reads the gossip, but there his interest ends.

The theory of advertisement, of profit to accrue from a little more of personal notoriety, is a blunder. The public of this kind cares to know that an author squints, weighs 12 stone 10 or has a broken nose, or uses a thick handled pen; but as to what he writes with that pen this kind of public is serenely indifferent. Where, then, is the necessity for admitting the interviewer? Necessity there is none, but indolence, vanity, love of notoriety, are likely to keep the author of interviews in full employment.

Mr. Blathwayt has added to his volume a defense of his art, in which he says practically that "Zenophon" interviewed "Socrates." An author who talks of "Zenophon" falls a little short of the universal knowledge which it seems is necessary for the ideal interviewer.—London Saturday Review.

Gibraltar and Spain.

It may be objected that, although Gibraltar might be useless to us as against Spain, it would still, in wartime, be useful to us as against any other power. It certainly might be useful to a very modified extent. It is nevertheless a matter of notoriety that Spain ardently desires to regain possession of the fortress, and it is scarcely conceivable that, unless we were actually fighting for the protection of Spanish interests, Spain would remain rigidly neutral while another power was attempting to expel us from the rock.

In order to secure the more or less active co-operation of Spain the other power would merely have to give some secret pledge that, having once gained possession of Gibraltar, she would hand it over without charge to its ancient owners. France, there is no doubt, would, with things standing as they do at present, be very glad to see Spain take our place there, and though Italy might not like it she would not spend a single centesimo to prevent it.—